

Book Notes | Herbert Mitgang

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times C22 _____
 The Washington Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____

Date 31 Aug. 88

C.I.A. Review

A surprising author — Stansfield M. Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence in the Carter Administration — has accused the C.I.A. of violating his First Amendment rights.

Mr. Turner said he had undergone "a painful and costly process" before his book, "Secrecy and Democracy: The C.I.A. in Transition" (Houghton Mifflin), was allowed to be published three years ago. He called his ordeal "a gross abuse of the constitutional right of free speech."

In testimony this month before the Legislation and National Security subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee, the retired naval officer criticized the agency's prepublication reviews of books — that is, agency censorship — written by former members of the C.I.A. and the National Security Agency. He recommended Congressional oversight and a 10-year limit on prepublication reviews.

Admiral Turner cited several examples from his own experience. "While I was director of the C.I.A.," he said, "I gave a number of unclassified speeches to audiences with no security clearances. In one of those I gave a hypothetical example of how we integrate various types of intelligence collection. When I attempted to quote my own unclassified speech in my book, I was denied permission. Yet, I obtained quite freely a copy of my speech from the C.I.A. and assume, since it is not classified, that you or any citizen could do so today."

Admiral Turner's testimony recalled the trouble of Frank W. Snepp 3d, a former senior analyst for the C.I.A. whose book, "Decent Interval" (Random House), was published 10 years ago in defiance of the C.I.A.'s Publications Review Board. Mr. Snepp is still under a court injunction that requires him to obtain C.I.A. approval before speaking or writing about the agency. In 1977, when Mr. Turner was the Director of Central Intelligence, he accused Mr. Snepp of violating his security oath.